India has upgraded its Research and Development Centre located at Wardha to a National level Institute. For intensifying marketing efforts, commom brand names as 'Sarvodaya' 'Deshi Aahar' and 'Khadi'—India have been launched.

Separate policy for ARIs

†1656. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formulations of a separate policy for development of agro, rural and very small industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said policy would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Government had announced a package for promotion of khadi and village industries sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the women and backward classes. The main features of the package comprise of a rebate policy for five years, option of Rebate or Marketing Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing brand building and cluster development.

Coir Board is implementing various policies and programmes for promotion and sale of coir and coir products through modernization of production infrastructure, upgradation of skill of workers, expansion of domestic market and increase in export through publicity.

In addition, a comprehensive policy package was announced for the SSI and tiny sector on 30th August, 2000. Under the comprehensive policy, assistance is being provided for the tiny industries which includes the limit for eligibility for credit guarantee raised to Rs. 25 lakh, the limit for composite loan facility revised from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, the investment limit for plant and machinery for the tiny sector retained at Rs. 25 lakh, 20% of the projected annual turnover qualifies for working capital loan, etc. Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which finances setting up of micro enterprises and generates employment for the educated unemployed, the family income eligibility limit has been raised to Rs. 40,000 per annum.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.